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Celebrity Buzz

Carbs heal broken heart

pg 22

Vancouver Games

Countdown to 2010

• Today

Security preparations for the Games, pg 5

• Coming up this week

Tuesday — How are Vancouver's homeless to be affected?

Wednesday — Views of Canadians on the streets.

Thursday — One-year countdown at Whistler

Friday — Unveiling the Olympic torch

Valentine's Day

Matters of the heart

• Workology

Wedding planning — a most romantic career, pg 13

• TV

Plan your viewing this week and curl up with your lover to watch, pg 21

• Coming up this week

Tuesday — Josey Vogels on the best exercise for your heart: Love

Wednesday — Georgie Binks take on relationships, the most romantic getaways in Ontario and why movies are such a popular date-night choice.

Thursday — Recipes for a cosy night in.

Local pg 3

Date rape suspect turns himself in

Grammy Awards

Oh baby!

MARK J. TERRILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lil Wayne, left, M.I.A., centre, and Jay Z perform at the 51st annual Grammy Awards last night in Los Angeles. **More coverage, page 16.**

Who's minding the store?

Corruption trial bill 'a gross waste of taxpayer money'

The Ontario government spent more than $23.4 million on outside lawyers and consultants in suing numerous parties over alleged corruption at its real estate arm, but netted only about $3.5 million plus interest after a recent trial.

In what critics call a glaring lack of oversight and a gross waste of taxpayer money from 2000 to 2008, the government eventually took control of the civil case from an outside legal firm acting on its behalf in late 2007.

"There was clearly no one minding the store here," said Peter Greene, a veteran litigator who represented several key defendants for the first six years of the case. "A civil case is all about seeking payment of damages as a consequence of alleged wrongdoing. No one was balancing the costs and the likelihood of recouping them in damages."

But "sometimes, it costs a little more to defend your good name," said Amy Tang, press secretary for deputy premier George Smitherman, who is also the Minister for Energy and Infrastructure.

"Ontario's good name was preserved," she said, when the government took lengthy legal action for alleged fraud, bid rigging, kickbacks and breach of trust at Ontario Realty Corp. "That's not measurable in lawyer's fees."

Spending details obtained by the Toronto Star after the government fought to keep them secret show WeirFoulds LLP, a prominent Bay Street law firm, alone accounted for $12,134,091.91 or more than half of the bill even though it didn't prosecute the case at trial last fall.

That works out to an average of $29,168.49 for the firm every week for eight years.

The case originated in the late 1990s after serious questions surfaced about selling and operational practices at Ontario Realty, which manages the province's real estate assets.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Expenses

- Grant Thornton LLP — almost $6.4 million
- AMEC — more than $1.3 million
- Crockatt and Associates — $436,580.40
- Deloitte — $847,334.56
- McCarthy Tetrault LLP — $132,731.75
- Lenczner Slaght Royce Smith Griffin LLP — $15,207.59

Are you feeling the squeeze?

On a cold winter day, the offer of a free hug from a stranger is often all it takes to warm the heart.

Tanya Neumeyer, her brother, Ian, and a few friends carrying large signs saying "Free Hugs," startled scores of people at the corner of Yonge and Dundas streets yesterday and left more than a few feeling a little better about the world.

"It makes your day. More people should be hugging," said Louise Collins, 54, of Scarborough, who was shopping downtown with her cousin, Nancy Collins, 54, of Ajax.

"It was a nice thing. You smile and it makes your heart happy."
Lily Nacional, hug recipient

"It was a nice thing. You smile and it makes your heart happy," agreed Lily Nacional, 49.

Neumeyer, 26, said she got the inspiration from a YouTube video and a group called We Are What We Do.

This is the third year in a row Neumeyer has publicly offered embraces.

"It's kind of a nice thing. (February) is our shortest month, but the longest part of the winter. Some people will walk by smiling and other people will come running because they love the hugs. You get different reactions," she said.

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CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

The Government of Canada's proposed Economic Action Plan contains new tax measures that may benefit you.

If you're a homeowner, or are planning to become a homeowner, the Action Plan can help.

Support for home renovations

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✓ A First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit that allows you to save up to $750 on the closing costs of a first home

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Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

20 suspects sought in gunfire incident
Police are looking for up to 20 suspects after a gunfight erupted outside an Etobicoke restaurant yesterday morning. Just after 4 a.m., police received reports of gunfire and fighting in a restaurant parking lot on Dixon Road, close to Martin Grove Road. By the time police arrived to the scene all the suspects had fled. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Cities to end paying for recycling

Within five years, Ontario taxpayers will no longer be paying for half of the blue box program that recycles plastic bottles, paper and aluminim cans, according to a draft report released by Waste Diversion Ontario. In 2007, the net cost of operating the province's blue box program was $155 million, half of which was paid for by city taxes through the 50/50 split between industry and municipalities.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Comment
Lawrence Martin brings his insights on the world of politics in his column the National Report.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video Expected aid for U.S. financial sector has investors optimistic for this week's trading at **metronews.ca/canada**
Blogs Vancouver Whitecaps president Bob Lenarduzzi guests on this week's show of It's Called Football at **metronews.ca**

Lotteries

Feb. 6: Lotto Super 7: 1, 2, 8, 20, 33, 35 & 42. Bonus 15; **Feb.7 : Lotto 6/49:** 14, 20, 24, 30, 34 & 31. Bonus 41; **Feb. 8: Ontario Pick 3:** 1 8 3; **Ontario Pick 4** : 0 2 4 4; **Encore:** 3231880; **Daily Keno:** 2, 4, 8, 10, 11, 17, 19, 21, 23, 26, 33, 41, 44, 46, 51, 52, 56, 62, 63 and 68. These results are not official.

Education guru to be honoured

LEARNING Charles Pascal is being honoured tomorrow night for a career so varied it can appear he has spent the last four decades trying to complete some sort of self-devised Education Expert Lifetime Pentathlon. He will receive the Egerton Ryerson Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Education

Professor. Child-care centre founder. Deputy minister. College president. Education Quality and Accountability Office chair. The list continues at length. He is currently on leave from his work at Atkinson Charitable Foundation to serve as a special adviser to Premier Dalton McGuinty, who made him responsible for finding a strategy to implement full-day kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds. He will present his report next month. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

POWER Two explosions at a hydro station in Richmond Hill caused a brief power outage to approximately 7,000 homes yesterday. The blackout hit Dufferin Street to Yonge and from Highway 407 to Steeles Avenue West. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
Jagdeep Chahal, a 32-year-old Brampton man, exits the Toronto courthouse yesterday.

Suspect charged in date rape case

A Brampton man has been charged with drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at a downtown nightclub more than two weeks ago.

A woman told police that, on Jan. 22, she was sexually assaulted in the bathroom of a bar near King Street West and Brant Street after a man put a date rape drug in her drink.

Police yesterday credited the release of a surveillance video with helping identify the man allegedly responsible for the assault. The video showed the man entering the club with another man.

"The last 24 hours have been very fast," said Det. Const. Mike Norman of the Sex Crimes Unit. "We got phone calls to identify these people. The individual has brought himself forward and turned himself in with counsel."

Jagdeep Chahal, 32, surrendered to police at 8:30 a.m. yesterday. He has been charged with sexual assault and administering a noxious substance. He is scheduled to appear in court tomorrow morning.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GTA bus driver facing DUI charges

SAFETY Twenty people were given a wild ride yesterday as they were driven from Niagara Falls to the GTA by an allegedly drunk bus driver.

Other motorists on the QEW called police to report that the Coach Canada bus was driving aggressively, and officers stopped the Toronto-bound coach near Oakville around 7:30 a.m.

"They went on, talked to the driver. They noticed that he had been drinking, they could smell alcohol," said OPP Sgt. Dave Woodford.

Police arrested the man, a 48-year-old from Niagara Falls, and charged him with impaired driving. He had more than the legal limit of 80 milligrams of alcohol in his bloodstream, said police. The driver didn't hit anything during the ride and no one was injured. The passengers were transferred to another bus and taken to Toronto.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Driver
- The driver has since been released on a promise to appear in court.

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Man stabbed in neck at strip mall

A man was in hospital yesterday after being stabbed in the neck during an early-hours fight outside a Scarborough strip mall. Police got to Silver Star Boulevard, near Steeles Avenue East and Midland Avenue, at 2 a.m. and found the victim bleeding severely. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Waste goes where?

Ontario recycling shipped overseas

Ontario's recycling scraps — dirty peanut butter jars, plastic toys, and unsorted paper — are being shipped to Asia at a rate of thousands of tonnes a month.

The blue box castoffs are sorted by low-paid workers in huge factories, and recycled into inexpensive toys, shoes and colourful cardboard packages, before being sold back to Ontarians, where they fill the blue boxes once again.

Garbage experts say this revolving door is a necessary evil that will continue until the province has better recycling facilities so cities can process their own garbage.

"The question is, how much do we want to transport materials around?" said Glenda Gies, executive director of Waste Diversion Ontario, which oversees the provincial blue box program.

"We really do want to support the Ontario economy, we want to process these materials here."

How much?

- It is not clear how many tonnes of Ontario's recycled goods are sent to Asia each year.
- A study published by Waste Diversion Ontario concluded that four per cent of the 937,979 tonnes of blue box materials sold in 2006 went to China, and a lesser number to South Korea.

Geoff Rathbone is general manager of Toronto's solid waste department. In addition to shipping to China, Rathbone said the city sends about 10,000 tonnes a year of its "polycoat" milk and juice cartons to South Korea.

If Toronto moves ahead with plans to recycle disposable coffee cups, it will send them to the same South Korean facility, as long as the owners can handle the influx, he said.

Still, Rathbone believes local paper mills and recycling facilities are the best option.

"In the long term, I don't think (shipping to Asia) is a sustainable way to go," Rathbone said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Air Canada Centre **10th anniversary**

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hundreds of skaters showed up at the Air Canada Centre yesterday for a free public skate in honour of the stadium's 10th anniversary. It first opened its doors Feb. 19, 1999, and has since hosted more than 25 million fans at 2,000 events.

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Study links welfare to suicide attempts

HEALTH Queen's Park should boost welfare payments and improve access to disability assistance for Ontarians who can't work for health reasons as a remedy for chronic health problems among the poor, says a new report.

People on welfare are 10 times more likely to have attempted suicide than those living on middle- or upper-incomes, notes the report, which is to be released today.

Even taking into account other factors such as smoking, disabilities and a lack of education or physical activity, a low household income continued to be strongly associated with ill health, says the report, produced by the Community Social Planning Council, with the University of Toronto and the Wellesley Institute. Median household income for those on welfare in the study was $13,000. Median for the working poor was $21,000. The latter were healthier than those on welfare, but less so than Ontarians in higher income levels, according to the report, which draws on provincial data in Statistics Canada's 2005 community health survey. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Exception

- The exception to the health study were recent immigrants in the working poor category.

School board reviews spending

DECISIONS Toronto's public board is moving ahead with a plan to boost enrolment and revenues while streamlining spending.

First on its list of things to do: Hire an internal auditor; come up with a plan to sell its headquarters at 5050 Yonge St.; identify spending cuts that can be implemented this fall; identify priority programs and those that should be discontinued.

Among other suggestions the board is looking at is allowing schools to control their own budgets and a portion of their own revenues as well as launching a hotline for moneysaving tips.

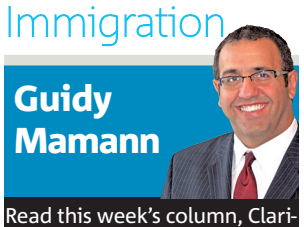
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

HIT AND RUN A pedestrian is in critical condition after a hit-and-run crash in Barrie yesterday. Police say a 32-year-old man was walking on Dunlop Street close to Highway 400, when he was struck by a car. The driver fled the scene.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Immigration



Guidy Mamann

Read this week's column, Clarification on implied status not so clear at metronews.ca

Figure skating event used to test security team's readiness
The Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit tested its readiness for the Olympic crowds at this weekend's Four Continents Figure Skating Championships at the Pacific Coliseum. METRO CANADA

Canada

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO CANADA

Canadian Forces members in Vancouver ahead of this week's Olympics security training exercise. Plans are being considered to set up army camps in the Vancouver-Whistler corridor during the Games.

Expert questions Games security

RCMP are confident in their plans for 2010

Examining the possible threats

GAMES While he believes that the likelihood of a terrorist attack during the 2010 Games is low, Simon Fraser University political science professor Douglas Ross warns that it's still a possibility. Below, he comments on some potential security threats.

1. Suicide bombers in high-volume areas. "That would maybe be the most probable."
2. An explosive hidden in a vehicle. "Something like a 500-metre to one-kilometre radius would just be utterly destroyed."
3. Terrorist organizations using fissile materials to create nuclear explosives. "That's the lowest probability but the highest risk."
4. Detonation of a radioactive dirty bomb. "This is at the low-end (of probability) but with a much higher consequence."
5. Biological agents. "Trying to ensure that nobody's carrying any little parcels of Anthrax-laden powder would be almost impossible."

ANDREA WOO/ FOR METRO CANADA

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Canada

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

As the estimated cost for Olympic security soars to nearly six times the original budget, an expert at Simon Fraser University says more needs to be done.

According to RCMP Assistant Commissioner Bud Mercer, there will be about 8,000 law enforcement officials on-site during the two-week Games, securing the perimeters of Olympic venues and screening attendees for weapons and other prohibited items. There will also be hundreds of surveillance cameras installed in and around Olympic sites as well as vehicle and pedestrian screening.

Cpl. Jen Allan, spokeswoman for the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit, said the ISU receives intelligence from both domestic and international security partners, conducts ongoing risk assessments and devises tactics accordingly. "We're confident in where we are in terms of planning," she said.

However, Douglas Ross, a political science professor at SFU who specializes in foreign policy and international security studies, said Vancouver has been ill-prepared from the get-go, calling the original budget of $175 million — which has since jumped to about $1 billion — "a joke."

"They're trying to classify and hide everything because they really haven't done enough," Ross said. He cites the lack of screening of all cargo at Vancouver ports as an example.

"If terrorist groups were to think that security was less than fully effective here … they might get the idea that this is a good target where there will be a lot of sitting Americans. I'm not sure that people in Ottawa, or VANOC, are really taking this seriously."

Getting prepared

- Tomorrow, the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit will begin Exercise Silver, a five-day-long security training exercise across the region.
- Security experts are also preparing for the possibility of terrorists seizing a B.C. Ferries vessel and of unidentified aircraft entering restricted air space.

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Comment & Views

Comment

Valentine's Day playbook

HineSight
Anne Hines

This is a public service announcement. Men, Valentine's Day is almost here.

Now, in guy speak, "almost here" means "today" or "darn, I missed it". Or "darn, I missed it again". But be forewarned, Valentine's Day is in five days. And to the woman in your life, five days is "almost here".

Some men are masters of the art of romance. My brother, David, for instance, buys his wife single red roses, makes cards by hand and takes the kids out so she can enjoy a quiet bubble bath. There's a term to describe men like this — still married.

But for those of you who are slightly more special-occasion-challenged, here's a little advice to help you avoid what happened last Valentine's Day … and you know what that was. I offer The Hinesight Guide to Avoiding V. Day Disaster.

Picture this day as the Super Bowl of romantic occasions. You are the quarterback. How does a quarterback ensure the play gets completed? He doesn't say, "Um … I'm just going to throw something together with whatever I can grab at Shoppers Drug Mart." He

Valentine's**Day**

plans ahead.

Begin with the gift. The gift is vital. But do not stress yourself thinking a gift has to be big or expensive. It just has to be perfect.

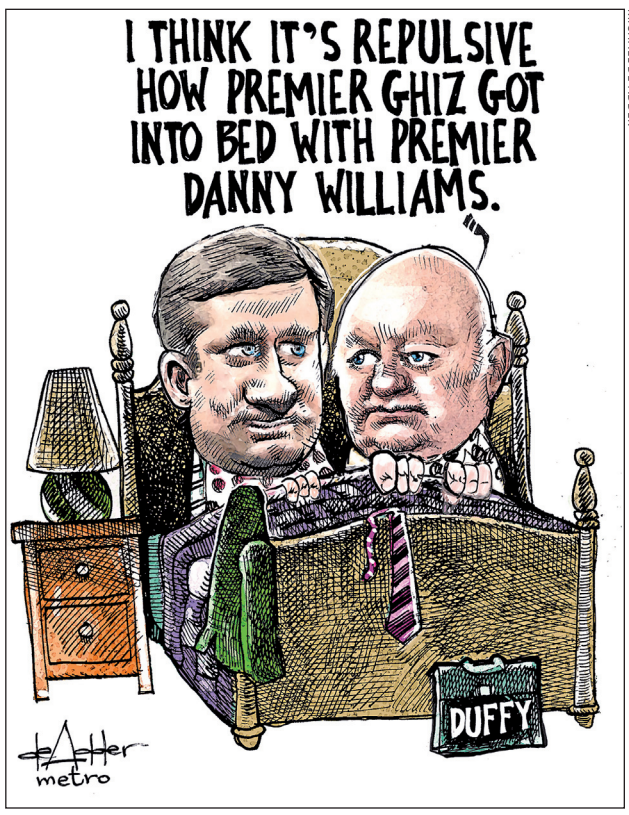
You see, to a man, a gift says, "This is a gift." To a woman, a gift says, "This is how I see you. This is how I feel about you in my deepest most truthful heart of hearts." The reason women place so much importance on gifts is that we don't always have any other way of getting that information.

Remember, no woman wants to know you think of her as a red flannel nightgown or new car mats. Instead, look at the kind of thing she buys herself and buy her more of it.

Next, choose where to present the gift. As a rule of thumb, unless you met, had your first date and conceived your first child at a Taco Bell, fast food restaurants do not spell "romance." Making her dinner will score you big points, particularly if you don't watch TV while eating or suggest that, since you cooked, she do the washing up.

With a little attention to the playbook, you can run this Valentine's Day right through the end zone. Or, in woman speak, you won't be sleeping alone for the next 12 months.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

ShareYourViews
torontoletters@metronews.ca

Views

New downtown subway relief line is gaining momentum

InTransit
Ed Drass
transit@eddrass.com

In less than a year, the idea of a new downtown subway line has gone from being a dusty, forgotten plan to winning the support of Toronto city council. 416 politicians and activists now want the proposal fast-tracked — which could potentially delay a northern extension of the Yonge subway to Richmond Hill.

The Downtown Relief Line would dip into the city core from new connections along the Bloor-Danforth route, hypothetically diverting passenger traffic away from the crowded Yonge/Bloor and St. George transfer stations.

Transit fans are busy debating exactly where the "DRL" should run, and the concept is gaining general credibility as a way to offset the effect of thousands of future transit riders boarding Yonge trains from north of Steeles.

Transit planners ignored the Yonge expansion until recently, apparently in the belief Toronto taxpayers would never build a line that filled up with passengers before it crossed the Steeles boundary. When the provincial Liberals offered in 2007 to finance the extension as part of the "MoveOntario 2020" megaplan, York Region groups seized on the idea.

Toronto was so focused on the Transit City network of light rail lines further south that the general design of the Yonge subway was pretty well complete when the TTC joined York Region's public consultation process late last year.

Provincial planning agency Metrolinx approved a regional transit plan in November, and many observers noticed the lack of new downtown lines among projects slated for the first 15 years.

It seems the latest push is to convince Metrolinx that the DRL is not really a competitor to the Yonge extension, but the key to ensuring York Region commuters can be accommodated on Yonge trains downtown.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Broadway musical audience applauds splashdown pilot
Weeks after starring in his own story of bravery and heroism, Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, the pilot who safely ditched his jetliner in New York's Hudson River, received a standing ovation Saturday from the audience at a Broadway performance of the Second World War musical South Pacific. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Getting down to business

Richard Nixon sneeringly assailed the room of assembled journalists. George W. Bush struggled to admit any mistakes. Bill Clinton defiantly denied ever having sex with a White House intern. Comparatively speaking, U.S. President Barack Obama's first televised White House news conference tonight should be a relatively business-like affair dealing with his $827 billion economic stimulus package. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Civilians flee conflict zone

250,000 Sri Lankans trapped

More than 10,000 civilians have fled Sri Lanka's northern war zone over the last two days, an official said yesterday as government forces appear poised to crush the separatist Tamil Tigers.

The military's relentless offensive in recent months has almost routed the rebels, virtually ending their 25-year war for a separate Tamil nation in the Sinhalese-majority country.

The United Nations and aid agencies have expressed concern for the estimated 250,000 civilians trapped in the shrinking sliver of land still controlled by the Tigers.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said 5,000 civilians fled the war zone for government territory Friday while 5,600 crossed over Saturday.

The government accuses the rebels of holding civilians as human shields, a charge the rebels deny.

The United Nations warned Friday of a food crisis in the conflict zone, saying World Food Program stocks in the area were gone.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hospital

- The Red Cross said Saturday that some 400 patients are stranded in a makeshift hospital in the north. It urged both sides to allow patients to be evacuated.

Israel **Final push before vote**

PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel's Foreign Minister and Kadima Party leader Tzipi Livni addresses supporters yesterday at her last election campaign rally in Tel Aviv, Israel. Israeli polls Friday predicted a narrowing race for tomorrow's elections between front-runner Benjamin Netanyahu and his rival Livni. Israel's Defense Minister Ehud Barak and his Labor Party appear to have fallen behind.

Bailout plan details delayed

BAILOUT U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner will unveil tomorrow the Obama administration's new framework to aid the financial sector.

Geithner had been scheduled to announce the plan today that will spell out how the administration intends to loosen credit using the unspent money in a $700 billion bailout fund. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

108 killed by wildfires in Australia

BLAZE Entire towns have been seared off the map by wildfires raging through southeastern Australia, burning people in their homes and cars and raising the death toll to 108 yesterday in the deadliest blaze in the country's history.

Searing temperatures and wind blasts created a firestorm that swept across a swath of the country's Victoria state, where at least 700 homes were destroyed and all of the victims died. More victims were expected to be found, officials said.

The skies rained ash and trees exploded in the inferno, witnesses said.

Marysville, a winter tourism town that was home to about 800 people, and several hamlets about 80 kilometres north of Melbourne were utterly devastated. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Merkel, Pope talk after controversy

DEMAND Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and Pope Benedict have had a constructive telephone conversation, officials say, after Merkel demanded clarification from the German-born Pope after the Vatican lifted the excommunication of Holocaust-denying British Bishop Richard Williamson.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fishermen saved from ice floe

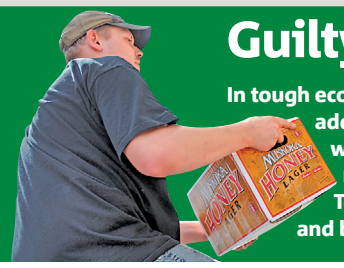
STRANDED A kilometres-wide ice floe broke away Saturday from Lake Erie's shoreline, stranding more than 130 fishermen about 1,000 metres off shore for four hours.

One man fell into the water while searching for a link to the shore, and later died. But 134 others were plucked from the ice by helicopters and air boats. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Union, CP Rail clash over safety record

The president of the union representing railway maintenance workers is calling on Canadian Pacific Rail to invest more money in its lines after several train derailments in the past two weeks, but the company maintains its safety record is tops in North America. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business



Guilty pleasures last to go

In tough economic times, the last thing we'll give up is our pleasures and addictions — the extra cable TV channels, cigarettes and the weekly trip to the beer store. Everything else is optional, said Jeremy Kroll, a bankruptcy trustee with A. Farber & Partners in Toronto. That's why companies that sell food, drugs, cigarettes and booze generally do well in recessions. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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Therapeutic Pink slip parties

CRAIG RUTTLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Phil Berent, right, with a pink bracelet indicating he is looking for work, speaks with recruiter Kevin Johnson at the Wall Street Pink Slip Party in New York, where the unemployed mix with recruiters to look for work and share their stories. With U.S. employers shedding 600,000 more jobs in January, the need for such parties has become important and, for some, therapeutic.

Province bleeds jobs

Ontario's unemployment highest since 1997

Canada's manufacturing sector continued to bear the brunt of the economy's job losses last month as the automotive industry scaled back production in response to feeble consumer demand.

In manufacturing, 101,000 net positions evaporated in January, the largest monthly decline on record for the sector, according to Statistics Canada. About 36,000 of those positions were in Ontario, where layoff announcements started to take effect.

Overall, 129,000 positions were lost in January, more than any monthly decline in the previous two recessions.

The heavy manufacturing job losses drove employment in Ontario down by 71,000 positions, pushing the province's unemployment rate up 0.8 of a percentage point to eight per cent, the highest level since November 1997.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

National rate

- The 129,000 job losses exceeded even the most pessimistic forecasts and pushed the national unemployment rate up to 7.2 per cent.

Province to probe abuse of painkiller

PRESCRIPTION Ontario will lead a national probe into the misuse of the painkiller OxyContin, a prescription narcotic frequently doled out by doctors that can lead to severe addiction and death.

OxyContin prescriptions paid for by Ontario's public drug plan were found to have tripled in five years, making it one of the most popular drugs.

Last year, $54 million of the drug was prescribed, the majority to people on social assistance.

The Toronto Star found that addiction rates are soaring in the province and an estimated 464 deaths in five years have been blamed on oxycodone, the drug contained in the popular pain killers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Chrysler idles Brampton assembly line

AUTOMOTIVE An Ontario assembly plant that makes sedans for Chrysler will be among four to be temporarily idled this week because of weak U.S. sales.

Chrysler said it will idle factories in Brampton, Sterling Heights, Mich., Belvidere, Ill., and Detroit from Feb. 9-13.

The company has 9,800 employees in Canada and operates vehicle assembly plants in Brampton and Windsor and a casting plant in Toronto.

The Brampton assembly plant makes the Chrysler 300, Dodge Charger and Dodge Challenger. Chrysler sales were down 55 per cent last month and 30 per cent in 2008.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Foreign workers first to be laid off

EMPLOYMENT Temporary foreign workers in Alberta are worried they may soon have no jobs. With the energy boom rapidly going bust, there is simply no longer a need for all of that extra manpower.

"The sky has started to fall on all construction workers in Alberta, but it's fallen first and fastest on the temporary foreign workers," said Gil McGowan, president of the Alberta Federation of Labour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The water footprint of an individual is defined as the total volume of freshwater that is used to produce the goods and services consumed by that person. The production of one kilogram of beef, for example, requires 16,000 litres of water. For more, see www.waterfootprint.org. **DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION**

Going Green

Millionth milestone

Last Wednesday, members of One Million Acts of Green logged their one-millionth act of green. During the campaign, participants logged an average 9,435 acts per day. GreenNexxus calculates the total acts of green to date, representing a reduction of nearly 56,000,000 kilograms of greenhouse gas. For more, see www.onemillionactsofgreen.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Putting a price on water

Some cities are exploring options for delivery

EarthTones

Sophia Dore & Andrew Laursen

earthtones.metro@gmail.com

Last week, Metro reported the City of Calgary is considering a third-party provider for regional water delivery. A private company would invest in infrastructure such as pipes and water treatment plants and the public would pay the city or the private company to have clean water delivered to its houses.

As the water infrastructure decays and municipalities are increasingly strapped for cash for repair, privatization is being, or has been, considered in many cities across the country.

We Canadians love our water. And we use a lot. Between 1972 and 1996, Canada's rate of water consumption increased by almost 90 per cent, to 45 billion cubic metres per year from 24 billion cubic metres per year. But our population increased by only 33.6 per cent over the same period.

Although it would seem that we live in a land with plenty of water, water conservation is important. We withdraw water from ground or surface water, we use it, and we discharge it, but the quality of the water we discharge is often not as good as the quality of water we withdraw (depending on how it was used and treated). We have contaminated some ground and surface water sources to the point where we no longer want to withdraw water from them.

So, it would seem that decreasing water use should decrease the discharge of pollutants. Privatization of water delivery systems would likely result in our water bills being linked to consumption of water, which is currently true for barely half of Canadians. Many still pay a flat rate for water delivery. A 1999 study showed water use was 70 per cent higher when consumers paid a flat rate for water. Privatization could, then, improve conservation efforts through the cheapskate principle (we conserve for the sake of our wallets, rather than the sake of our resources).

However, can we count on private companies to safeguard the integrity of our lakes and rivers by being vigilant about the quality of the water they discharge? The city of Hamilton privatized its water supply in the early '90s, and throughout the decade the city was plagued by discharges of sewage to basements across the city and to Lake Ontario. Although never proven, these discharges were blamed by many on the privatization of the water plants.

Discharges of sewage to our waterways led to a dramatic decline in water quality. The high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus contained in sewage can lead to algal blooms, which, together with bacteria that degrade the carbon-based portion of the sewage, lead to oxygen concentrations in the water becoming depleted, which leads to the death of fish and other aquatic life. Also, direct sewage discharge can introduce pathogens to our water, such as E. coli, and contaminants such as metals, which can be transmitted either by direct ingestion of water or by consuming fish from contaminated water bodies.

Discharges of sewage do not only occur when private companies are at the helm, however. So, whoever is in charge of delivering and cleaning our water as we move forward will need to meet stringent guidelines and maintain strict controls over discharge, as well as promoting water conservation so we can maintain the privilege of ample clean water.

Sophia Dore is an environmental scientist with Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. Andrew Laursen is an assistant professor at Ryerson University.

News in brief

PROTOTYPE Canadian architecture firm MOSS SUND, in partnership with industrial and mechanical design firm figlforty, recently introduced its new rain storage and harvesting prototype that allows homeowners to conserve water and increase their home's green space. Called CISTA, the prototype works by capturing rainwater flow from a home's eavestrough into a storage tank. This water can then be stored and used for lawn and garden maintenance. CISTA is undergoing testing this year and designers are hoping to have the units on the market for spring 2010.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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The future is now for GTA campuses

A green wave is sweeping over Toronto's academic institutions, as staff, students and faculty collaborate on sustainability projects that could inspire a sea of change across society.

CARLOS OSARIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Students can drive environmentally friendly projects with their research, activism and idealism.

Bike co-ops, compost and recycling programs, rooftop gardens and solar panels are becoming increasingly visible at university and college campuses.

Peel back a layer: Replacing aging furnaces with state-of-the-art HVAC systems, installing better insulation and replacing incandescent lights is saving schools millions of dollars while cutting energy consumption.

York University, for example, saved $2.7 million in 2008 with energy-efficient improvements, and expects to boost that savings to $5 million per year by 2011. Ryerson University estimates it has saved $15 million over the past 17 years thanks to sustainability and conservation initiatives.

But the changes on campus are driven by more than just a desire to save money.

Shareholder obligations may play a big role in driving the business world, but academic institutions — often with substantially smaller budgets — are also driven by the research, activism, and idealism of their students, faculty and staff.

"Sustainability has to start at universities, where you've got people absorbed in issues, thinking critically and engaging in dialogue."
Dr. Dawn Bazely

Changes are happening at the grassroots level (student-run compost programs, for example), in the research labs (changing the chemistry of concrete to make it more environmentally friendly) and by administrative edict (ensuring that new campus buildings are certified as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green buildings).

Together, they make the GTA's post-secondary institutions the equivalent of giant green incubators. Ideas can be tested, researched, and implemented on a relatively large scale before leaving the campus.

Whether a sustainable project works on campus can be a litmus test for how it will fare in the "real world," says Dr. Dawn Bazely, director of York University's Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability.

"Sustainability has to start at universities, where you've got people absorbed in issues, thinking critically and engaging in dialogue," says Bazely, an ecologist by training. "If you can't do it at universities, many of which are the size of small cities, how are we going to do this on a large scale?"

The future is green. And for university and college campuses across the GTA, the future is now.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NOW YOU CAN RECYCLE batteries at The Home Depot

You know they don't belong in the Blue Box or the garbage – so what do you do with dead batteries? Introducing "Do What You Can", a new program all about household hazardous or special waste. Now, thanks to The Home Depot, our first retail partner in battery recycling, you can drop your old AAAs, AAs, 9-volts, Ds and Cs, alkaline-manganese, zinc-carbon, lithium and button cell batteries into specially-marked containers, knowing what's reusable will be recycled and what's left over will be dealt with responsibly.

DO WHAT YOU CAN

THE HOME DEPOT

To find out where to take household paint and solvents, used oil filters, empty oil containers, single use batteries, auto antifreeze and containers, pressurized tanks, fertilizer and pesticides, go to dowhatyoucan.ca

Stewardship ONTARIO

Stewardship Ontario's *Do What You Can* program is funded by the industries that make and distribute these familiar household products, and in cooperation with municipal and commercial partners, works to reduce waste through the 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle).

Truex gets pole position for Daytona 500
Martin Truex Jr. won the pole for the season-opening Daytona 500 next Sunday while Mark Martin qualified second. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Gold for Kucera

Calgary's John Kucera, left, became the first Canadian ever to win the Men's Downhill title at the World Championships in Val d'Isere, France, on Saturday. Kucera had to watch 36 other competitors race after setting his time of two minutes, 7.01 seconds. Kucera was also the only Canadian to finish the race. Erik Guay of Mont-Tremblant, Que., Manuel Osborne-Paradis of Invermere, B.C., and Jan Hudec of Calgary all crashed out. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN CHICK, JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Sports in brief

SPEED SKATING Ottawa's Kristina Groves captured the silver medal at the world allround speed skating championships after winning one race and finishing fourth in another yesterday in Norway. Christine Nesbitt of London, Ont., was second in the 1,500-metre event. Groves won the race in one minute 56.17 seconds to edge Nesbitt, who was second in 1:56.49.

HOCKEY The groups for the 2010 Olympic men's hockey tournament are set. Germany, Latvia and Norway were the final countries to secure a place in the event yesterday, each winning qualifying tournaments to get in. The Norwegians will play in Group A at the Olympics along with Canada, Switzerland and the United States. Norway is one of the top Winter Olympic nations in history, but has not qualified for a hockey tournament since hosting the 1994 Winter Games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Is the cat out of the bag?

A day after Alex Rodriguez was linked to steroids, another all-star offered this suggestion: Make public the entire list of players who failed drug tests.

"I'd be all for the 104 positives being named, and the game moving on if that is at all possible," former Boston ace Curt Schilling wrote on his blog Sunday.

"In my opinion, if you don't do that, then the other 600-700 players are going to be guilty by association, forever," he wrote.

"It appears that not only was it 104, but three of the greatest of our, or any, generation appear to be on top of this list."

Rodriguez joined Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens on an ever-growing list of stars tainted by the steroids era scandal. Sports Illustrated reported Saturday the Yankees slugger, already dubbed "A-Roid" in the tabloids, tested positive for two steroids in 2003.

Rodriguez, the players' union and Major League Baseball were mum yesterday.

"Alex has been out of the country. I expect him back later today and want to confer with my client before saying anything," agent Scott Boras said.

Meanwhile, one recently retired player wanted to know how Rodriguez's name got out.

Sean Casey, who spent last season with the Red Sox, said he felt violated by the leak.

"A little bit, because it was supposed to be a survey test and those results were supposed to be confidential," he said. "The only reason we opened up the collective bargaining agreement was on those terms."

The list was compiled from 2003 tests, conducted by baseball to see whether the sport had a problem with drugs. No penalties were to be imposed for a positive test, and the results were supposed to be remain anonymous. Many players seemed to believe the samples would be destroyed.

Casey said he wouldn't be surprised if more names were revealed, "especially because of the witch hunt with Bonds and Clemens."

Rodriguez has always denied using performance-enhancing drugs. When he was approached by SI last week about the allegations, he said, "You'll have to talk to the union."

Union head Donald Fehr declined comment yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Howard extends with Phillies

MLB Ryan Howard has agreed to a $54-million US, three-year contract with the Philadelphia Phillies — avoiding a potentially contentious arbitration hearing. Howard, the 2006 NL MVP, led the majors with 48 homers and 146 RBIs last season while helping the Phillies win their first World Series title since 1980.

Teahen re-signs with Royals

MLB Mark Teahen and the Kansas City Royals agreed yesterday to a one-year contract worth $3,575,000 and avoided salary arbitration. The infielder /outfielder hit .255 with 31 doubles, 15 home runs and 59 RBIs. Teahen is on Canada's provisional 45-man roster for March's World Baseball Classic.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former NBA No. 3 pick Morrison traded to Lakers

The Charlotte Bobcats sent struggling forward Adam Morrison and reserve Shannon Brown to the Los Angeles Lakers on Saturday for forward Vladimir Radmanovic. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Minnesota 3 Edmonton 2 (SO)
Dallas 4 Nashville 1
Detroit 3 Pittsburgh 0
Philadelphia 3 Atlanta 2

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

TORONTO 5 Montreal 2
Anaheim 2 Calgary 1
Detroit 8 Edmonton 3
Ottawa 3 Buffalo 2 (SO)
Vancouver 7 Chicago 3
Carolina 7 Phoenix 2
Columbus 3 San Jose 2 (OT)
Los Angeles 3 New Jersey 1
Philadelphia 4 Boston 3 (OT)
St. Louis 4 Colorado 1
Tampa Bay 1 N.Y. Islanders 0
Washington 3 Florida 1

TONIGHT'S GAMES

N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey
Montreal at Calgary

NBA

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

L.A. Lakers 101 Cleveland 91
Miami 96 Charlotte 92
Orlando 101 New Jersey 84
Portland 109 New York 108
San Antonio 105 Boston 99
Washington 119 Indiana 117
Sacramento at Oklahoma City
Minnesota at New Orleans
Phoenix at Detroit
Utah at Golden State

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Memphis 78 **TORONTO** 70
Dallas 115 Chicago 114 (OT)
Detroit 126 Milwaukee 121 (OT)
Houston 107 Minnesota 90
L.A. Clippers 121 Atlanta 97
New Jersey 114 Denver 70
Philadelphia 94 Miami 84

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Phoenix at Philadelphia
L.A. Clippers at Charlotte
Houston at Milwaukee
New Orleans at Memphis

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NHL Wings blank Pens

GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pittsburgh Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury watches a goal by Detroit Red Wings' Pavel Datsyuk go into to the net yesterday. Datsyuk scored two goals as the Red Wings shut out the Penguins 3-0 in a 2008 Stanley Cup Final rematch.

Lakers snap Cavs' streak

NBA RESULT

Lakers 101 **Cavaliers** 91

LOS ANGELES LAKERS VS CLEVELAND CAVALIERS

No second all-star. No triple-double for LeBron James. And now, no more home winning streak.

It's been a rough few days for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Lamar Odom scored a season-high 28 points, Kobe Bryant added 19 and the streak-breaking Los Angeles Lakers handed Cleveland its first loss at home this season, 101-91 yesterday.

The Cavaliers came in 23-0 at Quicken Loans Arena, but were stopped by the Lakers, who ended Boston's 19-game winning streak on Christmas Day and halted a 12-game run by the Celtics earlier this week.

James finished with 16 points on just 5-of-20 shooting for Cleveland, which hadn't lost at home since Game 5 against Washington in the first round of last season's playoffs.

The Lakers weren't intimidated in the NBA's rowdiest arena and went 6-0 on a road trip that also included stops in Minnesota, Memphis, New York, Toronto and Boston.

Pau Gasol added 18 points with 12 rebounds for Los Angeles, which played a solid all-around game and made just six turnovers — none over the final 19:28. The Lakers' trip started rocky with centre Andruw Bynum injuring his knee against the Grizzlies, but it couldn't have ended any better.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fitzgerald a winner this week

NFL Larry Fitzgerald played as if the Super Bowl never ended. Fitzgerald caught five passes for 81 yards and two touchdowns, 44-year-old John Carney kicked two fourth-quarter field goals, and the NFC rallied to a 30-21 Pro Bowl victory over the AFC yesterday. The Arizona Cardinals' all-pro receiver, coming off a record-breaking post-season and a spectacular Super Bowl in a loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers, earned MVP honours. He caught a 46-yard scoring pass before the half and a two-yard TD pass from Eli Manning with 4:07 to play.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Metro Workology exclusive: Matters of the Heart
Don't miss Matters of the Heart, Metro's exclusive feature series in the Workology section. There are jobs to be had that focus on falling in love, falling out of love and everything in between; we will be digging up the stories for you, so check for Workology on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Metronews.ca/work as well.

Workology

College boosted by bad times?

The global economic downturn's impact on the job market is forcing some graduates to reconsider the value of their college degree, observes Walt Gardner in the Christian Science Monitor. There is a difference between learning for the sake of learning and learning relevant to making a living. Not intended to be trade schools, colleges are designed to develop the skills essential to lifelong learning, Gardner writes. MERO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Planning your special day

Leah Elliott is there to bear the burden on your wedding

Matters of the Heart

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Professional wedding planner Leah Elliott is a master of keeping her cool but when that fateful day of vows and kisses comes, she still cries every time.

Elliott, owner of Elan Wedding Consultants Inc., started the company in 2001 but had never thought of herself as an entrepreneur. She previously worked in administration and got into wedding planning by accident as a favour to her friends. Eventually she got so many requests that she figured it was time to go professional.

"I got to a point where I figured I have to start charging!" she joked.

As a wedding planner Elliott says her job is to take away all the stress and challenge of organizing the details of a wedding and let the happy couple instead focus on visualizing their dream wedding. Unlike the stereotype of some fussy old lady who thinks she knows what's best for a couple, Elliott says she is only interested in making sure the day goes exactly the way a couple wants.

"My main goal is to make sure the client is happy. I'm there to guide people and to make suggestions but I leave the final decisions up to the couple. People who know what they want are very easy to deal with — it's only when people are indecisive that it's hard," Elliott said.

Elliott does most of her wedding planning in Toronto, London and Ottawa and she plans to keep it that way so she can oversee matters in-person and keep a high level of service quality. She says planning weddings in a city like Toronto keeps her job exciting because the city is such a melting pot and each wedding can be full of surprises. Case in point: For one wedding, Elliott brought an elephant into Toronto's Yorkville area.

> **"There are so many cultures in Toronto that it keeps it fresh. I enjoy that."**
> Leah Elliott

"There are so many cultures in Toronto that it keeps it fresh. I enjoy that," she said.

Unlike many planners who charge a percentage of the total wedding budget as their fee, Elliott only charges a flat fee and warns people to accept nothing less from a reputable planner.

Wedding planner Leah Elliott says she always tears up when the bride and groom kiss at the end of one of her weddings.

"Charging a percentage of your budget is a conflict of interest — what's the incentive to keep costs down?" she said.

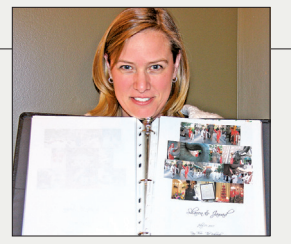
Working so closely with a bride and groom often means Elliott still gets emotional on a wedding day, but she wouldn't have it any other way.

"I've always said the day I stop crying at weddings is the day I quit."

For more Matters of the Heart exclusive series check the Workology section Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays or stop by Metronews.ca/work

Elephant?

• Leah Elliott has had to do some very interesting things as a professional wedding planner — including bringing an elephant into Yorkville. You can visit her site at elanweddings.com.



Leah Elliott

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University of Toronto launches new website

The University of Toronto has unveiled its redesigned website. Touting the university as the provider of "Canada's answers to the world's questions," the page features a large graphic banner linking to learning opportunities, student life, and research. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Skating away with it

OddJobs

If you've ever skated down Ottawa's famous Rideau Canal — perhaps during Winterlude, which is on right now — you have Alain Nantel to thank for the ice beneath your skates.

While Mother Nature, of course, takes care of the basics of freezing the 7.8 km skateway, it's Nantel, 38, and his staff that make sure the ice is just right.

"I go out on the ice every day," says Nantel, coordinator of operations, facilities and programs for the National Capital Commission (NCC). Usually on skates, he checks out the ice to make sure it's smooth, safe and free of snow.

He's in charge of the contractors who shovel the canal — snow not only gets in the way of skaters, but it weighs down the ice and insulates it, causing it to melt — and those who nightly spray it with water to create a flat skating surface.

Every two or three days, he winds an auger through the ice to take a carrot-shaped sample.

He's looking for 30 cm of good quality ice with his sample: Clear ice is the best stuff, white ice is made of water and snow, and it's not as stable.

Nantel's not a scientist. In fact, the Ottawa native — who grew up an avid skier and canal skater — studied business in college. His summer jobs always seemed to revolve around special events.

Eleven years ago he started working for the NCC, doing various jobs, mostly related to special events. Four years ago, he started taking care of the skateway, which is in its 39th season this year.

Critical decisions about the ice, such as when to open the skateway (Jan. 1 this year), are taken care of by the NCC's ice safety committee, a panel of experts.

But Nantel knows his ice too, thanks to on-the-job experience, plus the help of the NCC's comprehensive technical and safety manual on ice care. The document was created several years ago, combining information from experienced staff with scientific data.

This ice bible helps Nantel determine, among other things where to place vendors' tents for events such as Winterlude: If they're too heavy and too close together, they could sink or crack the ice.

When the ice is gone in spring and summer, Nantel keeps busy overseeing special events held at the NCC's parks throughout Ottawa.

NCC I PHOTO

The Rideau Canal Skateway.

The Lowdown

Job title: Coordinator of the Rideau Canal Skateway
Salary: Fixed government salary
Education: Experience with special events, knowledge of the science of ice
Best part of the job: "Knowing you're working on a world-class facility."
Worst part of the job: "The cold."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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New principal at Queen's
Queen's University has appointed Daniel Robert Woolf, a Queen's alumnus whose son attends the university, as its newest principal. Woolf is said to be "perfectly positioned to ensure Queen's meets the challenges." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Project work an option during recession

Professionals who are trying to land a job may want to pursue project work.

According to specialized staffing service Robert Half International, companies that are unable to add full-time employees during periods of economic uncertainty often bring in professionals on a temporary basis, which can translate into opportunities for those who are looking to earn income, make new contacts and enhance their marketability during an extended job search.

"In the current environment, it can be challenging for businesses to predict their long-term staffing needs," said Max Messmer, chairman and CEO of Robert Half International. "Using project or temporary professionals for high-priority initiatives allows companies to maintain productivity without committing to full-time hires until they are certain those positions are sustainable."

Messmer noted that while many people associate temporary work with the administrative profession, opportunities are available in a variety of specialized fields. "Companies need highly skilled professionals for a wide range of projects that require differing levels of industry expertise and experience," he said. "When looking for opportunities, it can be beneficial for job seekers to work with a staffing firm that specializes in their field."

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Swanson and Eisler get hitched

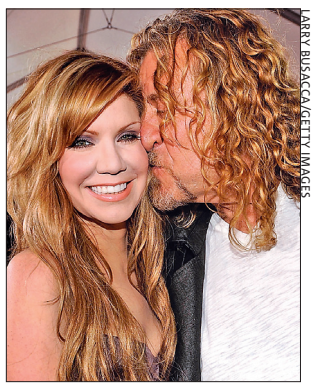
Skating with Celebrities winners Kristy Swanson and Lloyd Eisler — who skated for Canada in the Olympics — were married on Saturday. The actress and the skating champ met while competing on the Fox reality show three years ago. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

Danes to wed

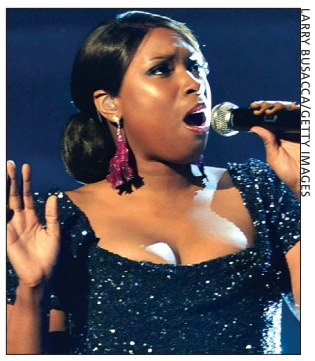
Claire Danes and Hugh Dancy are getting married, a rep for the pair confirmed. Danes, 29, and Dancy, 33, met while filming Evening in Newport, R.I., and had been dating for more than a year. **PEOPLE.COM**

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA



LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES

Alison Krauss, left, and Robert Plant won four Grammys.



LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES

Jennifer Hudson won the Grammy for best R&B recording.

No clear Grammy winner

Coldplay, Plant and Krauss, Lil Wayne battle for awards

The 51st Grammy Awards were shaping up to be a battle between Coldplay, Lil Wayne and the duo of Robert Plant and Alison Krauss.

Each of the acts had three awards apiece midway through the televised portion of the show last night.

Lil Wayne — whose album Tha Carter III sold more copies than anything else in 2008 — took home awards for best rap performance for A Milli, best rap song for Lollipop and shared the award for best rap performance by a duo or group with T.I., Jay-Z and Kanye West for Swagga Like Us, which they were scheduled to perform later.

Plant and Krauss, meanwhile, won trophies for best pop collaboration with vocals, best contemporary folk/Americana album and best country collaboration with vocals for Killing the Blues, a track from Raising Sand.

And Coldplay took best rock album for Viva La Vida, best pop performance by a duo or group with vocals and song of the year for Viva La Vida.

That award is given to the songwriter, not performer, which is notable because Joe Satriani has filed a lawsuit against Coldplay claiming they swiped the riff from his 2004 instrumental If I Could Fly for the hit single.

"Thank you so much, we've never had so many Grammys in our lives," said frontman Chris Martin, who earlier performed on piano with Jay-Z before joining his group onstage for Viva La Vida.

Meanwhile, it didn't take long for the show to get its first headline-grabbing controversy. Barbadian singer Rihanna was scheduled to perform a medley of Live Your Life and Disturbia with longtime boyfriend Chris Brown. Her performance was cancelled just before showtime amid news that police were investigating Brown — a double Grammy nominee — for an alleged assault on an unidentified woman.

Another singer who has been in the news, however, provided an early highlight. An emotional Jennifer Hudson accepted the award for best R&B album. She has only recently returned to the spotlight after being in seclusion since the October slayings of her mother, brother and nephew.

"I would like to thank my family in heaven, and those who are here today," said Hudson. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

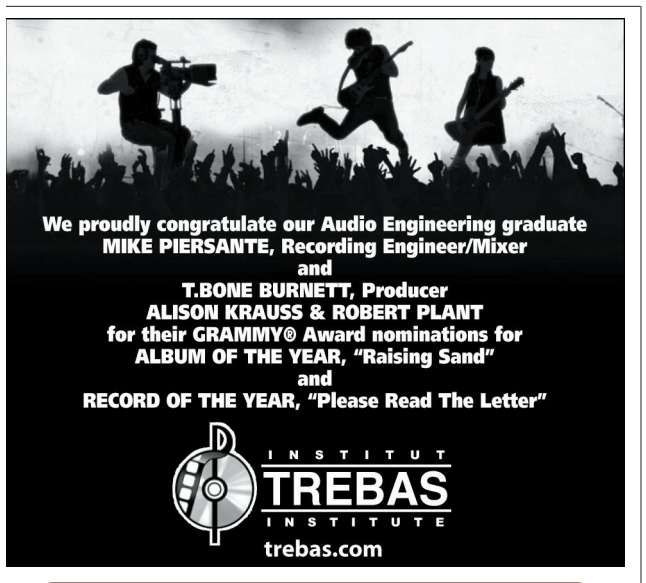
Coldplay frontman Chris Martin performs at the 51st annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles Sunday.

Grammy winners

- Best R&B recording: Jennifer Hudson, Jennifer Hudson
- Song of the year: Viva La Vida, Coldplay
- Best pop collaboration with vocals: Rich Woman, Robert Plant & Alison Krauss
- Best rock album: Viva La Vida Or Death And All His Friends, Coldplay
- Best new artist: Adele
- Record of the Year: Please Read The Letter, Robert Plant & Alison Krauss
- View the complete list at metronews.ca/music

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Bono performs Get On Your Boots, the new single from U2.



Milk, Slumdog pick top WGA awards
Oscar contenders Milk and Slumdog Millionaire won top honors Saturday at the Writers Guild of America Awards. Dustin Lance Black won the original screenplay prize for Milk, and the adapted screenplay award for Slumdog Millionaire went to Simon Beaufoy. WONDERWALL.COM

Slumdog sweeps BAFTA

Slumdog Millionaire continued its fairy-tale journey yesterday, winning seven prizes, including best picture, at the British Academy Film Awards and sealing its place as favourite for the Oscars later this month.

JOEL RYAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Penelope Cruz, from left, Mickey Rourke, and Kate Winslet pose with their awards at last night's British Academy Film Awards at The Royal Opera House in London, England.

Kate Winslet and Mickey Rourke also gained Oscar momentum with acting wins — Winslet for her role as a former Nazi concentration camp guard in The Reader, Rourke for his career-reviving performance as a washed-up athlete in The Wrestler. Heath Ledger won a posthumous supporting actor award for The Dark Knight.''

"It's such a pleasure to be back here, out of the darkness,'' said Rourke.

After her onstage emotional meltdown at the Golden Globes last month, Winslet was a model of composure, thanking her parents, sitting in the audience, "Who I will not look at right now, otherwise I will burst into tears.''

Slumdog, Danny Boyle's film about a Mumbai street boy's rise from poverty to game-show triumph, went into the ceremony with 11 nominations and won prizes for best film, best director, original screenplay, music, cinematography, editing and sound.

Boyle dedicated his award partly to the people of Mumbai, where it was shot — and also to people closer to home.

"The wiring in my dad's house blew overnight, and it's just a a big shout-out to everyone who helped him get the extension cable in so he could watch this on television,'' Boyle said.

Cruz was named best supporting actress for the Woody Allen comedy Vicky Christina Barcelona.

Ledger's widely anticipated victory was the only win for the The Dark Knight from nine nominations. Clint Eastwood's L.A. noir Changeling was nominated in eight categories but won none.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, also lost out, taking just three awards — production design, hair and makeup, and visual effects — from 11 nominations.

Director and Monty Python member Terry Gilliam was given an Academy Fellowship, a lifetime achievement award.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tech Oscar honour for Pixar co-founder

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

AWARDS Host Jessica Biel wore Oscar de la Renta, but it was bearded, buttoned-down Pixar co-founder Ed Catmull who got whoops and whistles at the first Academy Awards presentation of the year.

Attendees yelled and stood for Catmull, president of Walt Disney and Pixar Animation Studios, as he accepted an Oscar statuette Saturday night for a lifetime of work in computer animation. He said he was inspired by early Disney films Peter Pan and Pinnochio, then name-dropped collaborators George Lucas, Steve Jobs and Pixar chief creative officer John Lasseter.

"In each of the communities that I've been in, we know that when we make the movies look good, we make each other look good,'' Catmull said. "It's really been a great adventure.''

Pixar celebrates its 23rd birthday this year and is set to release Up — its 10th feature — in May.

Nine other men were honoured at the annual scientific and technical awards ceremony, which put a spotlight on the geekier side of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Biel, who was not accompanied by boyfriend Justin Timberlake, picked her way through tricky jargon like anamorphic desqueezers and got cheek-peck greetings from European honorees.

Among the other honorees Saturday: the makers of the Arrimax lighting system, the Hylen lens system, and Transvideo monitors. Computer scientist Mark Kimball, formerly of Disney, glanced from Biel to the medallion he'd been awarded for his technological achievements on films ranging from Tron to Beauty and the Beast.

"What a gorgeous thing!'' he said, smiling broadly. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rhino offers rare peek

Milking The Rhino
Director: David E. Simpson
Classification: STC
Rating:

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

A scene from the documentary Milking the Rhino.

From the more romanticized, western outsider and cinema-conditioned point of view, Africa is a land of great beauty and noble beasts that must be protected at all costs. But try living there and you might find yourself whistling a different tune.

That's been the central dilemma for Africans who co-exist with magnificent but deadly creatures that think nothing of stomping through their streets and killing them at random. David E. Simpson's critically acclaimed documentary Milking The Rhino examines this tenuous relationship between man and animal and, if the resulting film isn't wholly satisfying, the point of view taken is fresh and ultimately fascinating.

The picture charts two African tribes, the Maasai and the Himba who have, for generations, viewed the various elephants, antelope and rhinoceros's that surround them as nothing more than life-threatening forces and life-sustaining meat. But Milking the Rhino doesn't demonize these people, rather it sympathizes with their plight and more importantly it captures them in a state of revolution.

As the world around them changes, the Maasai and Himba opt to change with it, leaning toward organized community conservation over wanton poaching, realizing that through this newfound respect for nature comes greater tourist driven economic gain. Figuratively, they milk the rhino.

As a vibrant travelogue the film fires on all cylinders, with gorgeous arid landscapes and sometimes disturbing sequences of herd culling — the meandering tone of the film becomes virtually hypnotic. If the film has a flaw, however, it's in its lack of focus. There are too many characters in the film, all of them are worthy of deeper examination so we never really get a chance to get under anyone's skin.

Refreshingly upbeat, Milking the Rhino is nevertheless a worthy film and a rare peek into a world most of us will never know.

Screen time

- Milking the Rhino screens Wednesday, Feb. 11 at The Bloor Cinema at 6:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. as part of the ongoing Doc Soup series.

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Lil Wayne's secret hobby
Rapper Lil Wayne has confessed to a secret hobby — he's a passionate bowler. The Lollipop hitmaker admits he spends much of his free time playing Nintendo's Wii games console with his daughter Reginae, 10, and has perfected the art of virtual tennis, bowling and golf. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Flipping the finger crude in Ontario films

More than a quarter century after Pierre Trudeau's iconic one-finger salute, the Ontario Film Review Board has added "flipping the finger" to its official list of crude behaviours.

The board, which classifies all mainstream films in the province, amended its manual so that the rude salute now will help knock a film from a General (G) designation into the Parental Guidance (PG) category.

The gesture, sometimes called "flipping the bird" or simply "the bird," is rated the equivalent of an animal humping someone's leg, according to the manual's section on assessing the psychological impact of mainstream films.

And the "finger" is now classified as one notch more obnoxious than "a little bit of farting, belching" in the crude behaviours category, in the latest edition of the manual, obtained by The Canadian Press under Ontario's freedom-of-information law.

The gesture, though, is considered less obnoxious than a teenager vomiting and his friend urinating onto bystanders, say the arcane guidelines in the 32-page document.

The denigrating digit has enjoyed a fabled place in Canadian political history ever since Aug. 8, 1982. That was the day Trudeau, then prime minister, gave the finger to each of three protesters awaiting him on the train platform in Salmon Arm, B.C.

The so-called Salmon Arm Salute or Trudeau Salute, caught by one television camera, soon became a vivid symbol for those who thought the Liberal prime minister arrogant and hostile to Western Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Box office

The following are the top 10 films at the North American box office for the three-day weekend beginning on Feb. 6, according to studio estimates:

1. **He's Just Not That Into You:** $27.5 million US
2. **Taken:** $20.3 million
3. **Coraline:** $16.3 million
4. **The Pink Panther 2:** $12 million
5. **Paul Blart: Mall Cop:** $11 million
6. **Push:** $10.2 million
7. **Slumdog Millionaire:** $7.4 million
8. **Gran Torino:** $7.2 million
9. **The Uninvited:** $6.4 million
10. **Hotel for Dogs:** $5.8 million

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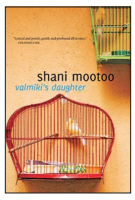
The burden of secrecy

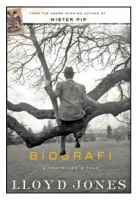


Valmiki's **Daughter**

Author: Shani Mootoo
Publisher: House of Anansi
Price: $29.95 (Hardcover)

Valmiki and Viveka, a Trinidadian father and daughter, possess opposing worldviews though they share the pain of harbouring secrecy. They're largely consumed by the high social standard established by Valmiki's medical career, philanthropy and aristocratic wife. But daughter Viveka is chomping at the bit for escape from her parents' constricted lifestyle. As both parent and child are at critical phases (middle-age and coming-of-age respectively) the secrets they bear become only more painful as they progress toward realization.

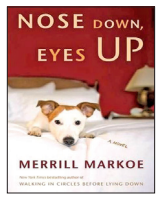
BookPicks



Biografi

Author: Lloyd Jones
Publisher: Vintage Canada
Price: $19.95 (Paperback)

If you had the chance to assume a new life, would you take it? In this reissue of Jones' 1993 novel Biografi, that's exactly what small town Albanian dentist Peter Shapello does on one transformative day when a chance visitor offers him the opportunity for a new identity. But Shapello's second self isn't as low-profile as his first — he's to be the stand-in for Albanian leader Enver Hoxha, appearing as Hoxha on official business. Biografi wryly evolves Shapello's new persona while alluding to the state of Albanian bureaucracy after communism.



Nose Down, **Eyes Up**

Author: Merrill Markoe
Publisher: Villard Books
Price: $28 (Hardcover)

Jimmy the dog enjoys a lavish lifestyle with his owner Gil, who lives gratis in wealthy seniors' summer houses in exchange for playing Mr. Fix-It. Moreover, Jimmy can speak his mind through Gil's love-hate animal communicator girlfriend, Sara. But when Jimmy realizes he's adopted, he wants to reconnect with his mother. But for the reunion to occur, Gil would have to contact his now-remarried ex-wife Eden. Gil must decide whether to risk bittersweet cohabitation with Sara or please Jimmy by reigniting a fire with the potentially explosive Eden.

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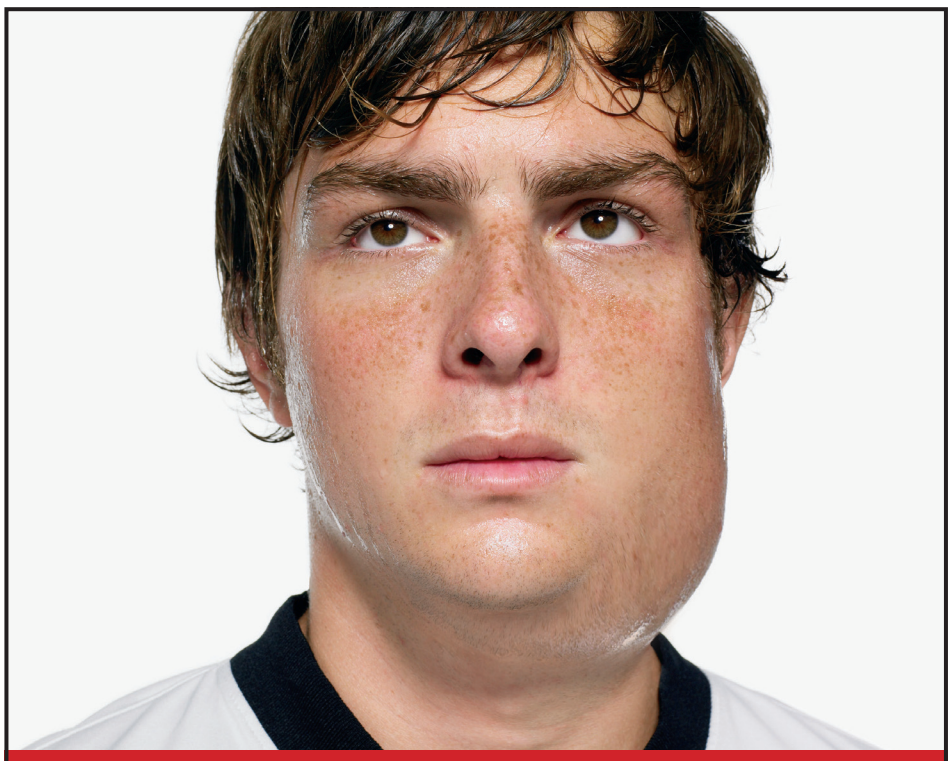

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Baby Aniston
Grey's Anatomy actress Chyler Leigh is planning to name her new baby Aniston. Leigh, 26, who plays intern Lexie on the ABC medical drama, is due in May. USMAGAZINE.COM

Snuggle in front of these

Only a few more days till Valentine's Day, folks. A time to show your significant other just how much you care.

Establishing a romantic mood is essential, and it's never too early to start. And, as is often the case, television can provide an easy, inexpensive, low-maintenance alternative as a lead-up to the main event:

Bridges of Madison County features a top-notch cast.

Valentine's Day

YOUNG LOVE

Was there ever a more classic tale of unrequited love than the saga of Charlie Brown and the Little Red-Haired Girl? Their star-crossed affair plays out yet again Tuesday night at 8 p.m. on ABC, in A Charlie Brown Valentine, a 2002 special produced (apparently against his will) two years after the death of Peanuts papa Charles Schulz.

Filling out the hour is the gang's original 1975 Valentine 'toon, Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown.

DATE NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Toss a bag of popcorn in the microwave, crack open a bottle of wine and enjoy some of the most romantic movies ever to hit the big screen. Most of them, oddly enough, are airing in the morning.

Romeo & Juliet: It all starts here, first with Shakespeare, and then the 1936 movie version with Norma Shearer and Leslie Howard as the titular doomed lovers, with John Barrymore along to lend gravitas. TCM Canada, Tuesday, 12:30 p.m.

Love Story: Love means never having to say you're sorry. An often useful, if unrealistic sentiment, first coined by Ali MacGraw in the 1970 romance classic, also starring Ryan O'Neal before he got all wrinkled and scary. It's on Friday at 7:40 a.m. and 4:40 p.m. on The Movie Network's MR-PIX.

Gone with the Wind: One of the most romantic movies of all time stars Clark Gable and Vivienne Leigh, airing on MRPIX Wednesday at an appropriately cuddly 11:50 p.m., basking in the warm afterglow of Atlanta on fire.

Working Girl: Harrison Ford and Melanie Griffith, lots of bad '80s fashion — what more could you want? Thursday at 5:30 a.m. on AMC Canada.

Bridges of Madison County: Craggy Clint Eastwood woos a married Meryl Streep, and the screen ain't big enough for both of them. But if you've got a big-screen TV — and even if you don't — you will get completely sucked in to this compelling tale of middle-aged attraction. SUNTV has it Tuesday at 8 p.m., with CTV re-running it late on the night of V-Day, at 12:05 a.m., actually five minutes into the morning after.

Out of Africa: Even more lovestruck Meryl — that girl gets around — a world away in Kenya, in the biographical romance airing Monday at 3:10 p.m. on MRPIX.

REALLY REEL ROMANCE

Fantasy's fine, but let's get real. Thursday's CBC Doc Zone has the ultimate happily-ever-after with Love Interrupted, two Romeo & Juliet-ish tales of young couples driven apart by race, religion, class and/or parental disapproval, who somehow manage to reunite later on in life.

Which is more than you can say for Romeo and Juliet. That starts at 9 p.m.

From reunion back to separation, the second season of CBC's hit reality show, The Week the Women Went is the ultimate way to tell your loved one how much they are wanted and needed, airing Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on CBC.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TV picks

TONIGHT

- Rapper-turned-actor Sean Combs guest stars on tonight's episode of CSI: Miami, stretching his acting skills by playing a defence attorney who may be involved in a murder cover-up. (CTV, CBS)
- It's showtime! Check out the doggy drama at the 133rd annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, live from New York's Madison Square Garden. (Animal Planet, Discovery HD)
- Tonight The Passionate Eye analyzes the current economic meltdown with the documentary, Crash: The Next Depression? Experts compare and contrast today's economic slump with the historic crash of 1929. (CBC Newsworld)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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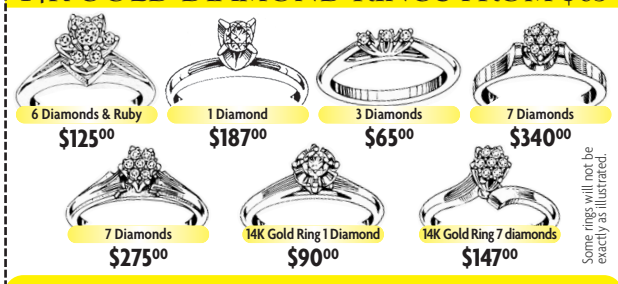

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2/9/09	primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		Auschwitz:Nazi-Final Solution		Agenda-Paikin
		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "Unfaithful" (N)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Heroes (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
		215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
		210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	Just for Laughs (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
		214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The Bachelor (N)				True Beauty "Get Fit"		News (N)
		212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	Gary Unmarr	Two/Half Men	Corner Gas (N)	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
		218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Soup	How I Met	Engagement	Worst Week	Snoop Father	Snoop Father	News (N)
		137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		L'Empire romain		*La Question humaine* (2007) Mathieu Amalric, Edith Scob.				Professionels
		-	-	14	-	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Search-Buddha
		213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	One Tree Hill (HDTV)		To Serve and Protect		Becker
		-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
		-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Presidential News Conference		Heroes (HDTV) (N)		Medium (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
		-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelor (N)				True Beauty "Get Fit"		News
		219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Ghost Whisperer		Medium (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
		-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	House "Unfaithful" (N)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
		-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow (N)		American Experience (HDTV) (N)	(DVS)		Lincoln-Law	Business Rpt.
		297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		One Tree Hill (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
		296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
		298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl
	news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Crash: The Next Depression		National
		500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
		509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show "Opening Night"				Westminster
	sports	405	417	22	net	Skiing FIS Ski Cross.		College Hockey Beanpot Tournament Final -- Teams To Be Announced.					Sportsnet Con.	Hockey Central
		400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey New York Rangers at New Jersey Devils. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre		That's Hockey!	SportsCentre
		411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman (N)		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
		417	406	81	SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time (N)	Speed Report Special Edition		This Week in NASCAR (N)		Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
	family	551	542	25	YTV	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Zixx Level	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
		554	544	45	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	Punch	Robot Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
		556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	Kim	Love It or List It		Dollars	Smart Cookies	Maxed Out
		570	580	29	MM	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	Instant Star	Instant Star	MuchTopTens		MuchNews	The NewMusic	MuchVibe
		615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Intervention "Sylvia"		Intervention "Angelina"		Paranormal	Paranormal	Paranormal
		700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Se Forte Maestro		Distretto Di Polizia		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
		571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Revival	Listed		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Where You At
		575	583	38	CMT	All About (N)	All About ...	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Coyote Ugly
		616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Retail (N)	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Testees	House
		620	523	40	BVO	Hot Dance	Dance With Me	Vida Y Danza, Cuba		Willie Nelson-Wynton Marsalis			Garrett Mason	Law & Order
		601	562	41	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Tabatha's Salon Takeover		Project Runway Canada		ET Canada
		522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Trojan Horse"		Battle 360		Underground War		NCIS "Trojan Horse"		Crime Stories
		625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Zach Galifianakis: Live		Daily Show
		600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Ambrose Price	Petal Pushers	Holmes-Homes
		294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	Welcome to	Welcome to	Family Guy
		576	582	49	BET	(6:30) *Diary of a Mad Black Woman* ★★ (2005)				The BET Honors (N)				Honors Post
		627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Lost "Solitary"		Star Trek: Voyager		Ghost Hunters		Stargate SG-1
		581	566	52	MTV	The City	City Live After	MTV News	Cribs	A Double Shot at Love		The City	City Live After	MTV Live
		618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	News Show	Tube Tales	E News	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap	Reality	Deal-No Deal
		603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Food Detective	Road Tasted	Hell's Kitchen		Chef School
		261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Eyes Down	May-December	McLeod's Daughters (N)		God Bless	Clergy	Poltergeist
		621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	First Class All the Way		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
		553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby
		115	711	101	TVA	Les Gags	Star Académie:	Annie et ses hommes (N) (SC)		Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
		126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
		526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		Commander In Chief		Dollars	Body-Evidence	Mediums
		300	601	301	M1	Stargate Atlantis		Sanctuary "Folding Man"		U.S. of Tara	Secret Diary	ZOS Zone of Separation		Atlantis
		305	612	306	PIX	(7:10) *Perfectly Normal* ★★ (1991, Comedy)				*Friday the 13th Part VII -- The New Blood*			*The Final Cut* ★ (1995)	

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

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critics' corner

Sophie
After breaking up with Tiago, Matt goes on a bar-hopping binge, dragging Sophie along. When she's had enough, she seeks help from her new neighbor in getting out of Matt's clutches. Estelle gets involved in a role-playing exercise at Matt's hospital in the new episode "You've Got Fe-Mail." 8:30 PM on CBC

Heroes
Superpowers continue to not be the best things to wish for when the Heroes are on the run from their latest adversary and one of their own, Nathan Petrelli. When Matt paints a series of prophetic images, the tragic fate of someone close to him is revealed. 9 PM on NBC; 10 PM on GTV

CSI: Miami
This week Horatio and the CSI team go head to head with a defense attorney who might be involved in a murder cover-up. Few things are better than art imitating life, unless it's life imitating art. We're not sure which we're dealing with here. 10 PM on CTV CBS

Moss is the face of new McCartney campaign

Kate Moss and Anglea Lindvall have been unveiled as the stars of Stella McCartney's latest fashion ad campaign, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The spring/summer '09 line, shot on location in Puerto Rico was photographed by Ryan McGinley. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Clooney and Margulies are still good friends

FRIENDSHIP Former ER lovers George Clooney and Julianna Margulies are still crazy for each other after all these years — as pals, that is, people.com reports.

The actors — who played the dashing Dr. Doug Ross and his onscreen love, nurse Carol Hathaway — recently reunited for the medical drama's final season.

"It's been nine years and it was like we'd never been apart," Margulies told eyebrow guru Ramy Gafni, who recently tended to her famous brows at his RamySpa in Manhattan people.com says.

"She said, 'The chemistry was still there.' She said she loves him to pieces and that he's such a great guy," says Gafni.

In the final season, viewers will finally find out what became of Ross and his onscreen flame, who never married in the earlier episodes.

Clooney, 47, left the show in 1999 for movie stardom, winning an Oscar for 2005's Syriana. Margulies, 42, who exited ER in 2000, and her husband, attorney Keith Lieberthal, had their first child, Kieran, in January.

NBC and Warner Bros. declined to comment on the casting of ER's final season. But on Jan. 26, Clooney told People magazine of his return to County General, "It was fun to be back and it was good to see those guys."

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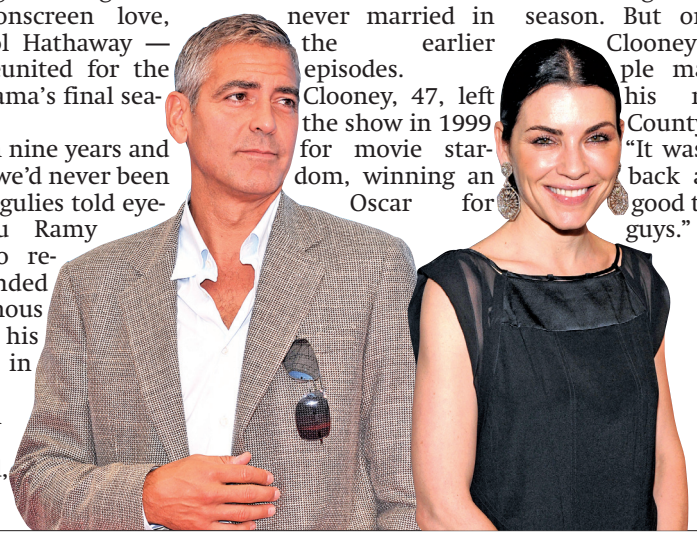

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Usher's family crisis

PEOPLE Usher is dealing with a family crisis, eonline.com reports.

Record mogul Clive Davis shocked guests at his annual star-studded pre-Grammys party Saturday night when he announced that the R&B superstar would not be performing as planned.

Davis, president of Usher's J Records label, announced that the entertainer and his mother phoned earlier to cancel his rehearsal and subsequent performance at the Beverly Hilton because of a "serious illness in the family."

Reps for Usher declined to comment or elaborate on the sad news, but a source close to the 30-year-old denies rumours that his wife, Tameka Foster, 37, had died following plastic surgery. Access Hollywood does report, however, that Foster did suffer complications from a cosmetic procedure in Brazil.

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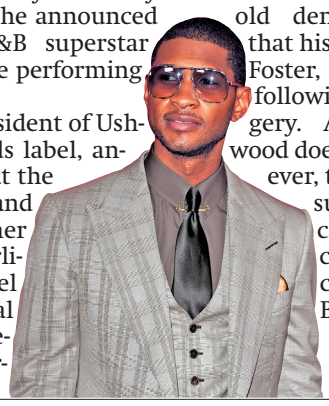

Drew turns to food when upset

RELATIONSHIPS Drew Barrymore mends her broken heart by eating cheese, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The He's Just That Not Into You actress, who has been married twice, can't help indulging in processed dairy products when her love life is floundering.

When asked what she does after a romance ends, Barrymore replied: "Head straight for the carbs. Macaroni and cheese. Kraft. Deluxe. The kind with the cheese you squeeze out of a bag that takes at least a month to pass through your body.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Paltrow reaches out to Allen

PEOPLE Hollywood actress Gwyneth Paltrow has come to the defence of British pop star Lily Allen — urging the press to leave the singer alone.

Paltrow knows Allen through the Smile hitmaker's screenwriter mother, Allison Owen, who worked with the actress on two films — 2003's Sylvia and Proof in 2005.

And the Iron Man star is adamant the wide media coverage of Allen's personal life is unfair because the 23-year-old is so young for her age.

Paltrow tells Britain's Elle magazine, "The way I feel about that is: Shame on you. They're doing that to a child! Lily is not a woman yet.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Despite critics, Simpson shows off

IMAGE After more than a week of battling body bullies and fashion critics, Jessica Simpson showed off her figure in a tiny pair of Daisy Duke-style short-shorts onstage in Grand Rapids, Mich., Thursday night, people.com reports.

Simpson — who seemed nervous and tentative at times — told the crowd of 15,000 that it had been "a rough week."

At one point in the show she said, "You definitely have to confront everything you go through."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Winehouse curbs cravings with pot

ADDICTION Amy Winehouse has allegedly found just the thing to keep her cravings for drugs and alcohol down: Marijuana.

According to U.K. tabloid the Sun, the troubled singer has been smoking as many as 10 joints a day while hiding out in St. Lucia. "Amy hasn't touched crack or cocaine for months," a friend tells the newspaper.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rihanna reveals her humanitarian side

CHARITY Rihanna is stepping forward to help a five-year-old New York City girl find a bone marrow donor — the second time in a year that the Grammy Award winner has helped a leukemia victim seek a match, says people.com

"When I saw the video of Jasmina it broke my heart. It is so unfair that for a black patient it's so much harder to find a bone marrow match," the singer tells People magazine exclusively. "Jasmina has acute leukemia and she needs a bone marrow transplant to live."

Last February, Rihanna helped New Yorker Lisa Flynn find a match by putting out a call for donors on People.com. More than 5,000 donors came forward, says Katharina Harf of DKMS, the world's largest non-profit marrow donor center,

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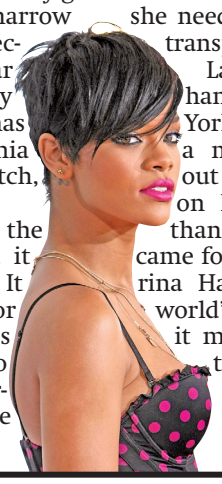

Jim and Jenny's naked days

COUPLE Jim Carrey and Jenny McCarthy have naked days, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The couple — who have been dating for around three years — reportedly enjoy stripping off when they are alone together to keep their relationship exciting.

A source said: "When they're alone they prefer to be nude most of the time. They always have an afternoon of naked fun. It spices things up. But of course they are always dressed in public."

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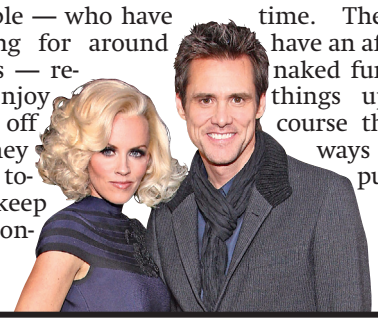

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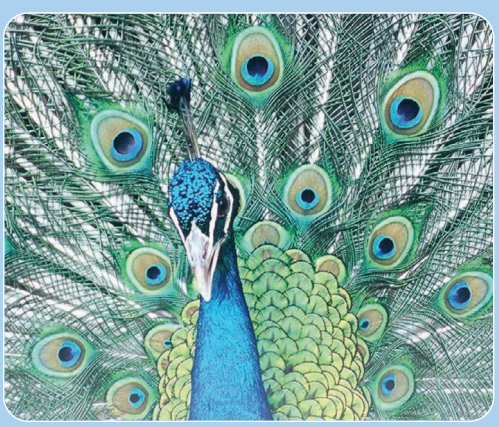

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Tuesday 60% Showers 8° / 3°
Wednesday 90% Rain 9° / -2°

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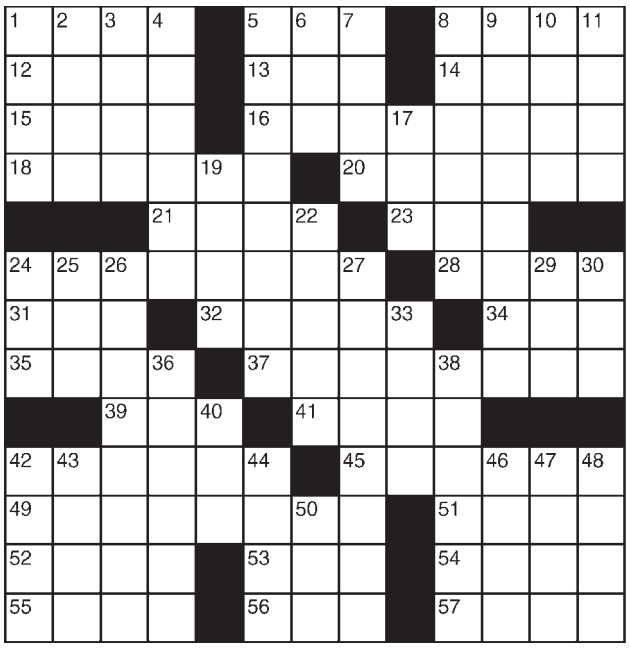
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Scolded
5 Young lion
8 Skaters' venue
12 Dorothy's destination
13 Work with
14 Mideast port city ...
15 ... and a dweller therein
16 Soft fabric
18 Grayish red
20 Long, harsh speech
21 House section
23 Cauldron
24 Heavy military footwear
28 Makes a hole
31 Rowing prop
32 Missionary Junipero
34 Unit
35 Commandment pronoun
37 "Sinker"
39 "That tastes awful!"
41 Infamous lyre player
42 Damage
45 Household linens
49 Agree
51 Pelvic bones
52 Evidenced a pinprick
53 Frank McCourt book
54 — and void
55 "— Breckinridge"
56 Type squares
57 Mirth

Crossword down

1 African nation
2 Circle dance
3 Mosque VIP
4 Go ashore
5 Repeated monotonously
6 Mex. neighbor
7 A-number-1
8 Rifleman's tamping device
9 Act of thinking
10 Dweeb
11 Leg joint
17 With it
19 Weeps loudly
22 Dunderhead
24 Make marginal notes
25 "That feels good"
26 Casino employee
27 Actuality
29 Wildebeest
30 Prepared
33 Taj Mahal city
36 Kampala's country
38 Optimistic
40 Toper's interruption
42 Cold War weapon (Abbr.)
43 Magical herb of myth
44 Ceremony
46 Hebrew month
47 Anger
48 Harvard's rival
50 Poorly lighted

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

3		5		4	2			6
	2		5					8
	8		9				5	
5							7	
		6	2		5	4		
	4							5
	9				7		2	
1					8		4	
4			1	5		3		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

S	H	E	■	F	L	E	E	■	P	L	U	S		
L	O	T	■	A	I	R	Y	■	R	I	F	E		
O	M	N	I	V	O	R	E	■	U	P	O	N		
B	E	A	C	O	N	■	S	A	D	■	■	■		
■	■	■	H	R	S	■	O	M	E	L	E	T		
A	T	H	O	S	■	F	R	Y	■	A	A	H		
T	H	A	R	■	H	U	E	■	C	U	R	E		
M	E	R	■	P	A	N	■	S	I	D	L	E		
O	M	E	G	A	S	■	C	A	R	■	■	■		
■	■	■	I	D	S	■	A	C	C	E	N	T		
C	H	U	M	■	O	M	P	H	A	L	O	S		
P	E	R	M	■	C	A	R	E	■	S	P	A		
A	N	N	E	■	K	N	I	T	■	E	E	R		

7	9	1	5	8	2	4	3	6
2	4	8	3	6	9	7	5	1
5	3	6	7	4	1	9	8	2
6	1	4	2	3	7	8	9	5
3	2	5	4	9	8	1	6	7
8	7	9	6	1	5	2	4	3
9	5	3	1	7	4	6	2	8
4	6	7	8	2	3	5	1	9
1	8	2	9	5	6	3	7	4

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chicken Brochettes with Pita

INGREDIENTS:
4 chicken breast fillets, each about 150 g, cut into bite-sized pieces
1 large green pepper, seeded and cut into bite-sized pieces
1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
Juice of 1 lemon
4 pita breads
1/3 cup (75 ml) soft goat cheese with garlic and herbs
4 crisp lettuce leaves
2 tomatoes, sliced
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Sprigs of fresh flat-leaf parsley to garnish

METHOD:
1. Soak eight wooden skewers in cold water for at least 30 minutes, or use metal skewers. Preheat grill or broiler to moderate heat.
2. Thread alternate pieces chicken and green pepper onto skewers, pushing ingredients close together to keep juicy. Brush with oil.
3. Grill brochettes 7–8 minutes per side until chicken is cooked through. Sprinkle with lemon juice.
4. Meanwhile, warm pita breads, either under grill or in toaster. Spread goat cheese on lettuce leaves.
5. To serve, split pitas open and insert lettuce and tomato slices. Season brochettes, then slip chicken and peppers into pita pockets. Garnish with sprigs of fresh parsley.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Rowdiness alienates somebody you hope to attract. Don't tell an idiot he is offensive. Your courage is admired and will soon be rewarded.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Worry not, the universe is unfolding properly. You bother someone who wants to cheat. Don't pursue a topic if a sensitive person gets upset.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A friend introduces an adorable person. Be thankful when someone does the right thing. Don't be fooled by anyone who tries to manipulate you.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Embarrassment is forgotten when you're praised. An idiot pushes your buttons. You'll have to rescue a troubled person when you don't want to.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Learning a new skill is hard but persistence brings rewards. Fight against egotism when planning an event. Unnecessary anxieties must be dealt with.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A meeting changes your attitude when the surprising truth comes out. Bid farewell to something you like. Ignore bad news that won't come about.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You'll get further ahead by starting early. Be careful when sharing emotional information. Taking it easy will be hard to do without support.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Change your viewpoint about financial matters. It's a challenge to be sensible about an ailment. You might be feeling that you're left out of things.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Foolishness can't be avoided — so you might as well enjoy it. A foreigner wrecks your work. Start getting rid of useless things.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't panic if someone is unconventional. A friend's experience makes an interesting story. A relationship issue causes turmoil around you.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Messages must be acted upon immediately. You are admired for a stand that you took. You should stay away from people who spread germs.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Think very carefully before you make a choice. It's to your advantage to be honest. Intense emotions will rise up, stay calm if you can.

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